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Sea turtle conservation by Turtugaruba Foundation

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Manhattan claws back people as urban counties stem outflow

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
Associated Press

Turns out the pandemic hasn't permanently dissuaded people — especially immigrants — from seeking their fortunes amid Manhattan's bustling streets.

The county that encompasses Manhattan added more than 17,000 residents in the year ending last July after losing almost 111,000 people in the previous 12-month period, according to population estimates released Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau. The earlier decline was among the worst urban population losses from the COVID-19 outbreak.

New York County was among several large, urban U.S. counties that either gained residents or stemmed the rate of declines between July 2021 and July 2022 compared with a year earlier.



A bronze statue of the Archangel Gabriel blowing a trumpet stands atop the Cathedral of St. John the Divine as the sun rises in the Morningside Heights neighborhood of the borough of Manhattan in New York City on Sunday, March 26, 2023.

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Associated Press

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Manhattan claws back people as urban counties stem outflow

Continued from Front

The reversal in population losses was particularly notable in King County, Washington, home to Seattle; as well as in large Sunbelt counties such as Dallas County, Texas; and two South Florida counties, Miami-Dade and Broward. The locations all had something in common: international immigration led the gains.

"I wasn't expecting this quick of a bounce back for some cities and urban areas. It's not a full recovery from before the pandemic but moving in the right direction," demographer William Frey, of the Brookings Institution's metropolitan policy program, Brookings Metro, said Thursday.

Population change is driven by migration, both within U.S. borders as people move around, and international trends as people arrive from abroad. It also depends on whether births outpace deaths, or vice versa.

Maricopa County, Arizona, home to Phoenix, had the biggest gain of any U.S. county, with almost 57,000 new residents last year. Domestic migration was primarily responsible. Harris County, Texas, home to Houston, followed with more than 45,000 new residents and international arrivals and natural increases



Light from the setting sun falls on the Hudson Yards neighborhood in the borough of Manhattan in New York City, as seen from the Weehawken Pier in Weehawken, N.J., Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

Associated Press

propelling that growth; 20,000 residents left. Collin County, a northern suburb of Dallas, ranked third in rising population, with more than 44,000 new residents who primarily came from other U.S. counties.

Los Angeles County, the most populous in the U.S. with 9.7 million people, lost the most residents last year, more than 90,000, as Angelenos moved elsewhere. One bright spot: The loss from domestic migration was 20% less than the previous year. The next biggest population loss was in Cook County, Illinois, home

to Chicago, and the nation's second most populous county. That change was also driven by people leaving.

Several San Francisco and San Jose-area counties that saw populations dramatically wane from July 2020 to July 2021 — primarily due to tech workers working remotely — had significantly smaller declines in 2022.

The counties with the biggest influx of international immigration last year were Miami-Dade County, Florida; Harris County, Texas; and Los Angeles County.

Harris County, Los Angeles County and Dallas County had the biggest natural increases. Three Florida counties — Pinellas, Sarasota and Volusia — led the U.S. in natural decreases attributed to deaths outpacing births. Florida's median age of 42.7 is one of the highest in the nation. The growth in Manhattan's New York County was propelled by international migration, and to a lesser extent by domestic migration and births outpacing deaths.

It came despite rising Manhattan rents and coincided

with many businesses' partial return to their offices, which ended some opportunities for remote work.

"There was a flood of people coming back into the city once the pandemic started easing up and that pushed rents up," said Daniel Akerman, a New York real estate agent. "People always want to live in Manhattan."

All the population estimates rely on birth, death and migration data.

Despite the most recent gains,

New York County was still running a population deficit of almost 98,000 residents as of last July when compared with April 2020, when COVID-19 spread quickly across the U.S. and the metropolitan area became an epicenter of the virus, spurring tens of thousands of residents to flee. Surrounding counties continued losing population last year. The three counties encompassing the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens recorded among the biggest population declines in the U.S., with losses ranging from 40,000 to 50,000 residents.

"This is still not really a COVID recovery year. It's only sort of a recovery," City University of New York sociology professor emeritus Andrew Beveridge said Thursday. "They haven't recouped." □



In this Aug. 26, 2015 file photo, an American Airlines jet taxis on a runway as the sun rises in the east sky looking from the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport in Grapevine, Texas.

Associated Press

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP Airlines Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The federal government is spending more money on improvements at Dallas-

Fort Worth International and other airports that officials say will increase safety by reducing the number of times that planes on the ground must taxi across ac-

Buttigieg touts airport projects to boost safety, efficiency

tive runways. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg stood before a bulldozer and mountain of dirt Thursday as he announced that DFW, the nation's second busiest airport behind Atlanta, will get \$29 million more for a new "end-around taxiway."

DFW officials say that when work is completed in 2025, it will eliminate the need for planes to taxi across two of the airport's main runways. "Every time a plane has to cross an active runway to get to where it's going, that's a source of risk," But-

tigieg told reporters. Buttigieg said the most serious runway incursions — when planes or ground vehicles are too close together — are happening twice a month now instead of once a month.

"We want to get that to zero, and so there is also a paradigm shift of treating the close calls with the same level of seriousness that we treat actual incidents," he said — declining to even utter the word "accidents."

Plans for the new taxiway were in the works before

the recent spate of close calls between planes at airports around the country.

And it won't prevent incidents like the one in January at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, when an American Airlines crew took two wrong turns and crossed a runway in front of a departing Delta Air Lines jet.

But Buttigieg and the Federal Aviation Administration are eager to show the public they are responding to increasing concern about air safety. □

Medicare, Social Security could fall short over next decade

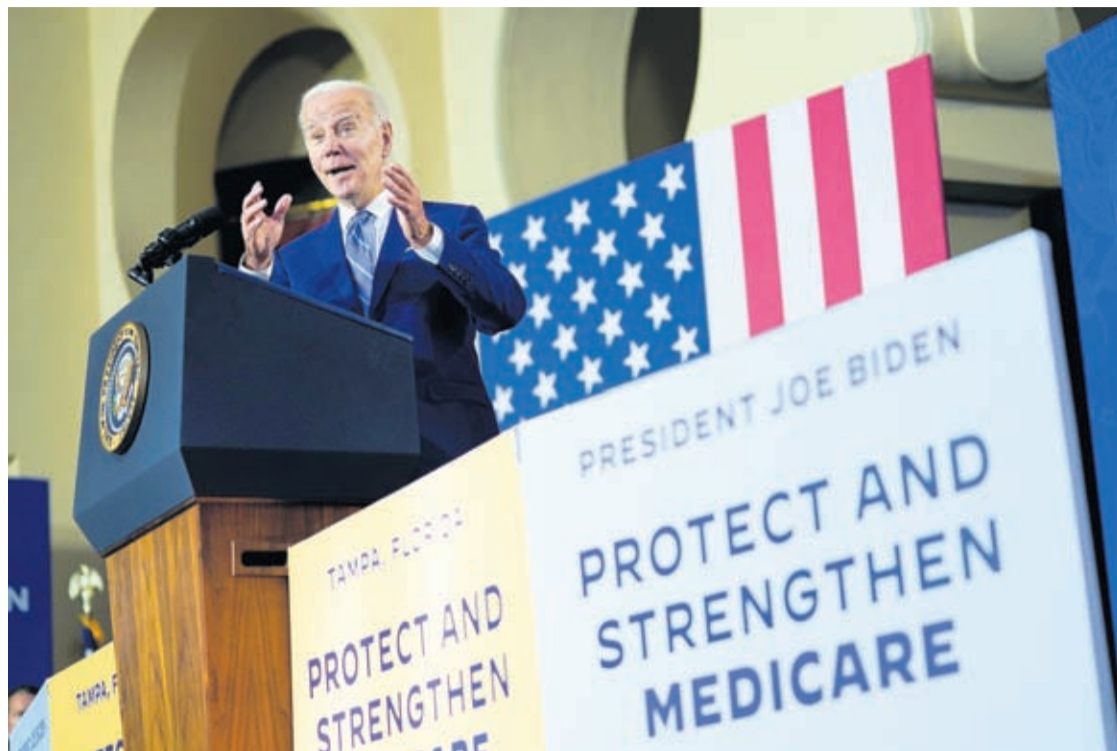
By AMANDA SEITZ and FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The financial safety nets millions of older Americans rely on and millions more young people are counting on will run short of money to pay full benefits within the next decade, the annual Social Security and Medicare trustees report released Friday warns.

Medicare, the government-sponsored health insurance that covers 65 million older and disabled people, will be unable to pay full benefits for inpatient hospital visits and nursing home stays by 2031, the report forecast. And just two years later, Social Security won't have enough cash on hand to pay out full benefits to its 66 million retirees.

The report is another prod for politicians to address the fragile financial state of the social programs, which are only expected to get more expensive in the coming years as more Americans age into eligibility for them.

"The Trustees continue to recommend that Congress address the projected trust fund shortfalls in a timely



President Joe Biden speaks about his administration's plans to protect Social Security and Medicare and lower healthcare costs, Feb. 9, 2023, at the University of Tampa in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

fashion to phase in necessary changes gradually," said Kilo Kijakazi, acting commissioner of Social Security.

Friday's report is a mix of good and bad news: The forecasted go-broke date for Medicare was moved back three years last year's report predicted the government wouldn't have enough money to start paying those benefits in 2028. But the date for

Social Security's trust was moved up one year earlier. On its current track, Medicare would be able to cover only 89% of costs for patients' hospital visits, nursing home stays and home health care starting in 2031. The date was pushed back, in part, because health care spending has not rebounded in the way trustees expected as the COVID-19 pandemic has faded. Trustees said part

of that could be that the country's most vulnerable and sickest were among the roughly 1.1 million Americans who died from the virus. Also, knee and hip replacements have largely shifted from inpatient procedures to less costly outpatient visits.

Social Security is in worse shape with the fund predicted to cover only 77% of benefits starting in 2033. Not enough money is com-

ing in to sustain the fund. Inflation and economic output are driving some of the fund's troubles. And, another problem for the fund has been driven by income inequality: there's been a faster uptick in incomes for the country's wealthiest, but slower-than-expected growth for low-income earners, meaning the government is not collecting as much tax revenue as it expected from much of the population.

Social Security's disability trust fund is in much better shape it's not expected to be depleted within the next 75 years.

The future of Social Security and Medicare has become a top political talking point as President Joe Biden heads into his expected 2024 reelection campaign. Biden, a Democrat, has vowed to rebuff any Republican-led efforts to cut Medicare or Social Security benefits to brace for the shortfall. Instead, he's pitched raising taxes on some of the country's wealthiest people, those making \$400,000 or more a year, to shore up Medicare. He has not offered up a plan for Social Security, however. □

Biden to Russia on detained U.S. journalist: 'Let him go'

By SEUNG MIN KIM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Friday urged Russia to release Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who was arrested on espionage charges allegations the newspaper denies. "Let him go," Biden told reporters at the White House when asked about his message to Russia on the arrest of Gershkovich.

Russia's Federal Security Service has accused Gershkovich, a U.S. citizen, of trying to obtain classified information. It is the first time an American journalist has been detained in Russia on

accusations of spying since the Cold War. The Journal has said it "vehemently denies" the charges.

Speaking at a news conference in Lusaka, Zambia, Vice President Kamala Harris added that the administration was "deeply concerned" about Gershkovich's arrest.

"We will not tolerate and condemn, in fact repression of journalists," Harris said during a weeklong visit to Africa.

The Biden administration said Thursday it was working to secure U.S. consular access to Gershkovich. Asked Friday whether he would expel Russian diplomats or

journalists in the U.S., Biden responded: "That's not the plan right now."

Karine Jean-Pierre, the White House press secretary, called the targeting of U.S. citizens in Russia "unacceptable" and said the administration condemns the detention of Gershkovich "in the strongest terms."

The Biden administration has also warned U.S. citizens not to travel to Russia, and for Americans in the country to depart immediately.

In Moscow, Dmitry Muratov, Nobel Peace Prize-winning editor-in-chief of the Novaya Gazeta newspaper, told reporters he knows



The Wall Street Journal journalist Evan Gershkovich is shown in this undated photo.

Associated Press

the detained journalist and "Gershkovich was not an agent using his professional and journalistic accreditation as a cover for espionage."

Speaking more generally of the Kremlin's repression of independent journalism, which has intensified since

Russia invaded Ukraine, Muratov said: "This is a trend trying to attribute espionage and treason to people at every step, to show that the profession of a journalist is an enemy profession for the country for Russian and other journalists." □

Minneapolis and state agree to revamp policing post-Floyd

By STEVE KARNOWSKI
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The city of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Department of Human Rights signed a “court-enforceable settlement agreement” Friday to revamp policing in the city where George Floyd was murdered by an officer nearly three years ago.

The state agency issued a blistering report last year after a two-year investigation found the police department had engaged in a pattern of race discrimination for at least a decade. City leaders subsequently agreed to negotiate the settlement, which the City Council approved on an 11-0 vote. Mayor Jacob Frey and Minnesota Human Rights Commissioner Rebecca Lucero signed it about half an hour later.

“The agreement isn’t change in and of itself, but it charts a clear roadmap to it,” Frey said at a news conference. “This agreement helps us to embark on the work and then push it even further.”

Lucero pointed out that Floyd was murdered 1,040 days earlier. “It’s been a very long time to get to this point, where he should be alive still,” she said.

“This agreement serves as a model for how cities, po-



Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey speaks during a press conference announcing approval of a sweeping plan to reform policing that aims to reverse years of systemic racial bias, Friday, March 31, 2023 at the Minneapolis Public Service Building in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

lice departments and community members across the country can work together to address race-based policing and strengthen public safety,” Lucero said. “This is a model for a new path forward.”

The state agency launched its investigation shortly after Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, knelt on Floyd’s neck for 9 1/2 minutes on May 25, 2020, disregarding the Black man’s fading pleas that he couldn’t

breathe. Floyd’s death sparked mass protests that spread around the world. It forced a national reckoning on racial injustice and compelled the Minneapolis Police Department to begin an overhaul. Chauvin was later convicted of murder. He and three other officers who were at the scene are now serving prison terms.

“We didn’t get here overnight, and change also won’t happen overnight,”

Frey said. “This problem that we now face, it has taken hold over many generations, many administrations, mayors and chiefs, and clearly our Black and brown communities have taken the brunt of this.”

Lucero said the agreement is a legally binding pact that requires the city and the police department to make “transformational changes,” to fix the organizational culture that her agency’s report said was at

the heart of the problems with race-based policing.

The commissioner said it includes measures to ensure that force is used “only when it is objectively reasonable, necessary and proportional.” Officers will be required to de-escalate conflicts whenever possible and prohibited from using force “to punish or retaliate.” There will be limits on when and how officers can use chemical irritants and Tasers. And training in the disputed condition of excited delirium a key issue in the confrontation that led to Floyd’s death will be banned. Pretext stops for broken lights and searches based solely on the alleged smell of marijuana are banned.

Frey, Lucero and Police Chief Brian O’Hara said the agreement reflects the feedback from and concerns of the community and police officers.

“The court-enforceable agreement does not prohibit officers from relying on reasonable, articulatable suspicion or probable cause of criminal activity to enforce the law. We want officers to do their jobs,” Lucero said. “We want them to be successful and do it well, and that means policing in a nondiscriminatory manner.” □

Developer drops land purchase in historically Black town



This undated photo shows the Eatonville sign in Eatonville, Fla. Associated Press

EATONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A developer on Friday ended plans to purchase a 100-acre (39-hectare) property

from the local school system in a historically Black town in Florida following a public outcry that the deal

threatened the cultural heritage of the community made famous by Harlem Renaissance writer Zora Neale Hurston.

Derek Bruce said in a letter to Orange County Public Schools in Orlando that he had terminated the deal to purchase the land where a former school for Black students stood in the town of Eatonville. The school system said in a statement that it wouldn’t consider any further bids for the land. “This decision presents us with a new opportunity to collaborate with the Eatonville community to preserve and celebrate the

Town’s historic and cultural significance as the oldest incorporated Black town in the U.S.,” the school system said in the statement.

An association dedicated to preserving Eatonville’s cultural history last week sued to stop the \$14.6 million deal, claiming it threatened the cultural heritage of the town. The developer had plans to build 350 homes, as well as business spaces, raising fears the project would increase traffic and price out longtime residents of the town. With a population of around 2,350 people, of whom almost three-quarters are

Black, Eatonville is perhaps best known through the writings of Harlem Renaissance writer Zora Neale Hurston. The town was the setting for one of her best known works, “Their Eyes Were Watching God.”

Founded in 1887, Eatonville was among the early all-Black incorporated municipalities established in the decades after the end of slavery in the U.S. Around 1,200 Black towns or settlements were established in the late 19th century and early 20th century, according to the Historic Black Towns and Settlements Alliance. □

After being fired, Israel's defense minister caught in limbo

By ISABEL DEBRE

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Five days ago, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to fire his defense minister set off a wave of spontaneous mass protests and a general strike that threatened to paralyze the country, forcing the Israeli leader to suspend his divisive plan to overhaul the judicial system.

But Netanyahu never even sent Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant a formal termination letter, a spokesperson for Netanyahu said. As of Friday, Gallant whose criticism of Netanyahu's planned judicial changes led to his dismissal was still on the job. Gallant's aides said it was business-as-usual at the Defense Ministry.

As local media this week crackled with reports of Netanyahu considering whether to replace Gallant with stalwarts of his right-wing Likud party, Gallant remained in limbo and even so, the public face of his ministry. He greeted the Azerbaijani foreign minister, toured two military bases and attended Tuesday's security cabinet meeting this week. On Thursday, Gallant attended a celebration ahead of the Jewish Passover holiday with the director of the Shin Bet security service, his office said, releasing a photo of him smiling beside Director Ronen Bar. "We have a duty to calm the spirits in



Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant speaks during a joint statement with his U.S. counterpart, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin following their meeting at Ben Gurion International Airport, Thursday, March 9, 2023 in Lod, Israel.

Israeli society and maintain an inclusive and unifying discourse," Gallant said at the holiday toast. The questions swirling around the fate of Israel's crucial Defense Ministry which maintains Israel's 55-year-old military occupation of the West Bank and contends with threats from Iran, Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group and the Gaza Strip's militant Hamas rulers reflects the tensions tearing at Netanyahu's right-wing coalition after one of the most dramatic weeks for Israel in decades. It's also a leadership test of Israel's longest-serving premier as he governs a deeply polarized country and faces charges of corruption. Netanyahu's

decision to pause plans to weaken Israel's Supreme Court in the face of the country's biggest protest movement underscores the complex juggling act that the prime minister must perform in holding together his governing coalition, experts say. On the one hand, Netanyahu must please his far-right and religiously conservative coalition partners supporters of the judicial overhaul who vaulted him to power even as he stands trial. But he also must weigh grave concerns over the plan from Israel's closet ally, the United States, as well as anger from more moderate politicians and, significantly, dissent from within Israel's military over

fears the national crisis could threaten the country's security. A growing number of military reservists had declined to report for duty in protest of the measures, raising concerns that the crisis could harm Israel's military capabilities. Netanyahu's office declined to comment further on Gallant's unresolved situation. But the conflicting pressures have resulted in an impasse over Gallant's future and who serves as defense minister.

"Netanyahu has extremists surrounding him and they want to see blood, they want to see Gallant removed," said Gayil Talshir, a political scientist at the Hebrew University of

Jerusalem. Those politicians include far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who received outsized power in coalition deals that persuaded them to join the government.

But as the first senior Likud official to break ranks over the judicial overhaul, Gallant has proven himself to be "someone who is more concerned about the national interest than the personal interest of Netanyahu," Talshir added.

Officially firing and replacing him could trigger backlash not only from tens of thousands of Israeli protesters taking to the streets weekly and from Israel's already unnerved military officials, but also from the Biden administration, she said. The U.S., which gives Israel a more-than-\$3 billion annual assistance package and diplomatic backing in international forums, has expressed misgivings about Netanyahu's efforts to change the Israeli judicial system. President Joe Biden's blunt criticism of the overhaul this week even after Netanyahu's decision to halt it led to a rare open dispute between the allies. "The Biden administration saw Gallant as someone dependable, someone they can work with," said Ehud Yaari, an Israel-based analyst for the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. □

Associated Press

Norway makes country's largest-ever cocaine seizure in Oslo

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Police made the largest-ever cocaine seizure in Norway when they discovered 800 kilograms (1,760 pounds) of the drug in boxes of fruit in Oslo, officials said.

Norwegian news agency NTB said late Thursday that the drugs were found this week following a tipoff from German police who seized 1,200 kilograms (2,645 pounds) in Potsdam on Tuesday.

Police didn't disclose the exact date that the co-

caine was found in Oslo, or where the fruit originated from.

No one has been arrested in Norway.

Police spokeswoman Grete Lien Metlid was quoted by NTB as saying that it was the largest seizure ever in Norway.

She said that it was too early to say whether the cocaine was intended for the Norwegian market, or if Norway was being used as a transit point.

"We cannot rule out that there are larger networks

with connections to Norway," Lien Metlid told NTB. The fruit boxes had arrived at a warehouse facility of Bama, a large Norwegian fruit and vegetable wholesaler, company spokesman Pia Gulbrandsen said in a statement.

The previous largest seizures of cocaine in Norway was in 2013 when 153 kilograms (337 pounds), were seized, and in 2013 when 145 kilograms (319 pounds) of cocaine were hidden in banana boxes, the news agency said. □



Fruit importer Bama's offices in Oslo, Norway, Thursday March 30, 2023.

Associated Press

Climate, coups risk African goal of silencing guns by 2030

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The goal of silencing the guns in Africa this decade is being challenged by climate change, terrorism, coups and the continent's history, the head of the African Union initiative told the U.N. Security Council on Thursday.

Attaining the goal is at risk even after the date was pushed back once to 2030, Mohamed Ibn Chambas said. He pointed to constitutional, institutional and cultural challenges as well as "Africa's vulnerability to global economic shocks" and weak implementation of international, national and regional decisions on peace, security and development.

Silencing the guns was a key initiative in the vision for "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa" adopted by AU leaders in May 2013. Called Agenda 2063, it originally stated that all guns would be silenced in 2023, but in December 2020 the AU decided to extend the date to 2030.

That's the same year the United Nations set to



Executive Secretary of the West African countries Mohamed Ibn Chambas attends a media conference at the EU Foreign Ministers meeting in Valkenburg, the Netherlands, Sept. 4, 2004. Associated Press

achieve its 17 major development goals that are also lagging, including ending poverty, ensuring secondary education for all children, achieving gender equality, and providing affordable and clean energy. Chambas told the Security Council that when AU leaders adopted the silencing the guns initiative "they were motivated by the desire to bequeath future generations of Africans

a continent free of wars and conflicts."

The objective was to work toward "an Africa at peace with itself and with the rest of the world," he said, but today multiple challenges have put that goal at risk, starting with the widening gap between rich and poorer nations, and between elites and marginalized people and communities within countries.

For example, Chambas

said, the COVID-19 pandemic "pushed 55 million Africans into poverty in 2020 and reversed more than two decades of progress in poverty reduction on the continent." He said "equally alarming is the fact that 15 African countries are reportedly at risk of debt distress," and today the continent's debt is more than \$600 billion.

Chambas urged stepped up efforts to reduce in-

equalities and make new investments in education, technology and health while ensuring Africa's young population could attain decent jobs. He also urged a crackdown on illegal financial flows that deprive the continent of approximately \$90 billion annually.

He said Africa should shift from exporting raw materials to exporting manufactured goods and processed agricultural products, which would require investment in cross-border infrastructure. Chambas said Africa should produce its own food, calling it "untenable," that a continent with 60% of the world's remaining arable lands and many rivers and freshwater bodies is dependent on grain imports.

The AU high representative for implementing the silencing the guns initiative said achieving the goal also depends on addressing recent coups and unconstitutional changes in government and countering the scourge of terrorism, and the internal and external factors causing conflict and instability in Africa. □

Japan unveils proposal to promote marriage, raise birthrate

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — A Japanese Cabinet minister in charge of tackling the country's declining birthrate unveiled a draft proposal Friday aimed at reversing the downtrend, including

increased subsidies for childrearing and education and a salary increase for younger workers to incentivize marrying and having kids.

Japan's population of more than 125 million has been declining for 15 years and

is projected to fall to 86.7 million by 2060. A shrinking and aging population has huge implications for the economy and for national security as the country fortifies its military to counter China's increasingly assertive territorial ambitions.

Children's Policies Minister Masanobu Ogura said the next few years are possibly "a last chance" for Japan to reverse its declining births. If the number of births keeps falling at the rate since the beginning of 2000, the young population will shrink at twice the current pace in the 2030s, he said.

Many younger Japanese have balked at marrying or having families, discouraged by bleak job prospects, corporate cultures incompatible with having

both parents but especially women work, and the lack of public tolerance for small children.

To address the problems, Ogura's plan proposes increased financial assistance, including more government subsidies for childrearing, more generous student loans for higher education and greater access to childcare services. It also aims to change the cultural mindset toward more gender equality both at work and at home. The proposal also includes increased government assistance to companies to encourage more of male staff to take paternity leave, which has been a point of contention for working fathers fearing retaliation.

"While diverse views about marriage, childbirth and

childrearing should be respected, we want to make a society where young generations can marry, have and raise children as they wish," Ogura said. "The basic direction of our measures to tackle low births is to reverse the trend of declining births by supporting individuals' pursuit of happiness."

He said he submitted the proposal to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida for further consideration. It will be part of a bigger policy package that Kishida's government will compile in June.

In 2022, Japan had 799,728 newborns, a record low, falling below 800,000 for the first time since surveys began in 1899. Many couples are hesitating to add to their families because of rising costs. □



Newly appointed Minister of State for Measures for Declining Birthrate Masanobu Ogura arrives at the prime minister's office on Aug. 10, 2022, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42

in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of



Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight

into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □



Aruba to me



Oranjestad —You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we

strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today, we received a lovely message from Richard Falcone Jr from Guilford, Connecticut in the U.S.

He wrote to us saying: "Aru-

ba to me is a Special Place in Our Hearts, Soul, and Family Memories. No Better Place!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

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How it all began

It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandise, products and employees. Supply and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small



and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandise as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mother's vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr.

Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Eagle Aruba Beach Resort

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently recognized the Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. Presenting the Ambassadors with the Goodwill certification as a token of appreciation.

The Goodwill certification is granted to ambassadors to recognize, their loyalty, friendship, and visits to the island of Aruba. Goodwill Honorees have been choosing Aruba as their preferred vacation destination for more than 20 years consecutively. The Honoring certification program has three levels, which are divided according to the number of consecutive years visiting the island.

Honoring Levels:

- Distinguished Ambassadors: 10> years
- Goodwill Ambassadors: 20> years
- Emerald Ambassadors: 35> years

Honorees were: Goodwill Ambassadors: 20> years:

Richard & Linda Rothstein are residents of Massachusetts, United States (have been coming to Aruba for 20 years consecutively).

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the Eagle Aruba Resort bestowed the certification of the Goodwill Ambassador. The honorees were presented with the Goodwill Ambassador Certificate and memorable gifts.

On behalf of the Government of Aruba, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Rothstein for making Aruba their preferred vacation destination for so many years. We are so thankful to have had such wonderful visitors all these years! Aruba is unquestionably their home away from home!

The top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:
Michael & Charmaine Langlois reasons:



Friendly people treat us like family (most important)

Beautiful beaches
Swimming and snorkeling

Excellent restaurants
Shopping. ☐



Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Don and Norma from Ontario, Canada**. It's their first time on the island and they were surprised to see that it's windier than they thought. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

casinoalhambra.com

Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba

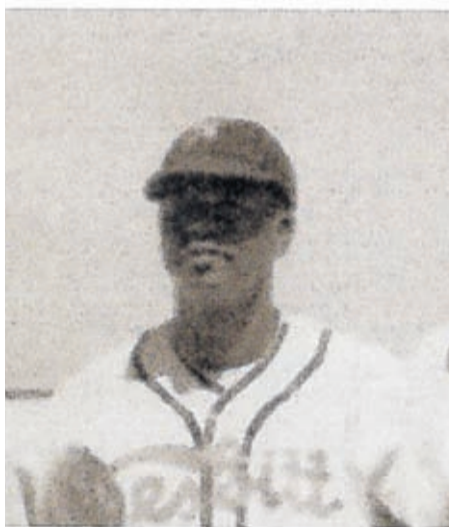
ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.

Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.

In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team. Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a doubleheader of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".

In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band.



Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan immigrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers".

Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950.

In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Series that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □

Sea turtle conservation by Turtugaruba Foundation

ORANJESTAD — Turtugaruba was founded on September 3rd, 2003 by a group of enthusiastic volunteers. Ten years earlier, in 1993, a Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP) was introduced in Aruba and the rest of the Caribbean as an initiative of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Tom Barmes, who was working at DLVV (Department of Agriculture, Husbandry and Fishery) was one of the writers of the STRAP for Aruba, together with Karen Eckert, director of WIDECAST (Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network). This is how sea turtle conservation started on the island following a plan that is still complied with today.

Tom formed a group of volunteers around him, because nature does not know office hours, like an organization such as DLVV. This group of volunteers used the name WIDECAST Aruba and today there are still a few of them active. They first started protecting the Leatherback Sea Turtle nests on Palm Beach and Eagle Beach. This group also investigated which other species of sea turtles use Aruba as their nesting habitat and which beaches are used by them. For a period of 25 years a study has been conducted in which every early morning the beach was being monitored in which now there is a good overview of sea turtle nesting activities.

There are 4 different sea turtle species that visit Aruba to lay their eggs, each with their own specific season:

- Leatherback Sea Turtle - Led-

erschildpad - Driekiel (March – September)

- Loggerhead Sea Turtle - Dik-kopschildpad - Cawama (May – September)
- Hawksbill Sea Turtle - Karetschildpad - Caret (June – December)
- Green Turtle - Soepschildpad - Turtuga Blanco (July-November)

There also came a better understanding and overview of the biggest threats to the sea turtles existence in Aruba and how these problems should be tackled. Despite hard work, all those years, most problems have not really gone away, but luckily and thanks to the enormous efforts from the volunteers, the sea turtles are still

here. On Aruba the sea turtles are threatened with extinction by pollution, driving on dunes and beaches with quads and 4x4's and the loss of nesting beaches due to coastal development on behalf of tourism. Because coastal development comes with artificial light and artificial light is a mayor issue for sea turtles, mother turtle usually comes on shore at night looking for a dark beach to make her nest. However... a dark beach is hard to find here nowadays. Light causes stress and can result in her returning to the sea without laying her eggs. Artificial light causes disorientation for the baby sea turtles (hatchlings).

They crawl towards artificial light sources (like streetlights, hotel lights, etc.) and then they don't

find the sea. In the 90's it was still a common occurrence to find a complete nest of about 70 hatchlings on the streets, dead, as cars drove over them. Thanks to their protection methods and a lot of time and effort, the volunteers of Turtugaruba have managed to get this under control. But for a sustainable solution there must be less light visible on the beaches and a strict regulation of it. Sea turtles simply need dark nesting beaches for their survival. It is clear that even more coastal development would not make the situation better for the sea turtles. Again, more hotel rooms? And even busier beaches? These are choices Aruba has to make. Do we want to leave a place for the sea turtles? Not only Aruba, but the entire world needs sea turtles! Sea turtles play a vital role in keeping our oceans healthy.

The Green Turtle, for example, keeps the sea grasses on the bottom of the sea short and therefore a healthy place for many fish to deposit their eggs. The Leatherback, the largest turtle of the world, eats mainly jellyfish and helps maintain the balance between jellyfish and plankton. Despite the threats that exist on Aruba, the turtles still keep coming. That's why today Turtugaruba is especially proud of the volunteers and the many people and organizations of our community that carry a warm place in their hearts for the sea turtles. All four species are active now, which means all hands on deck in the field for us, the volunteers. We strive to keep the sea turtles, our oldest 'repeat guests', always coming back to Aruba and get the chance to reproduce here. □



CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

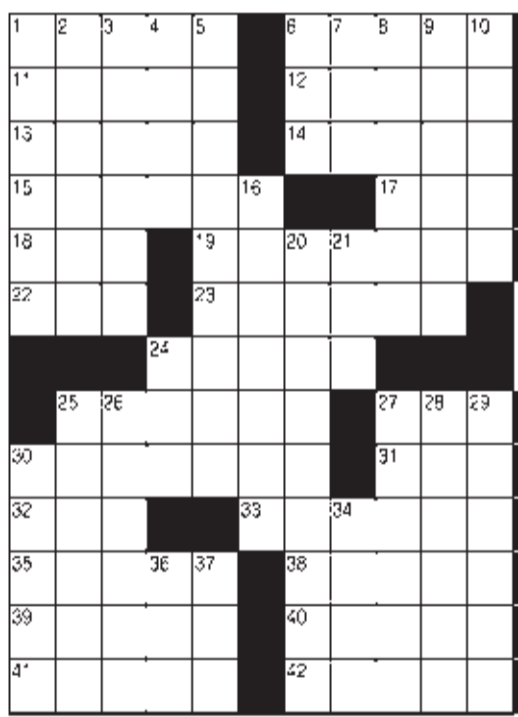
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from
4 "Picnic"
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novel
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protector
10 Informal
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16 Get
rigid
20 Infallible
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25 Kind
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26 Venus's
love
27 Church
services
28 Swear
29 Genetic
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30 Honey-
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34 Exile isle
36 Procured
37 USN

Yesterday's answer



A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-1 **CRYPTOQUOTE**
RI ZQZJV KSIQRIT CZEKA, RI
ZQZJV TIERI UG DEIL FAZJZ
RD FAZ DFUJV UG FAZ ZEJFA.
— JEKAZP KEJDUI

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SOMEDAY WE'LL FIND IT, THE RAINBOW CONNECTION, THE LOVERS, THE DREAMERS AND ME. — KERMIT THE FROG

Should U.S. airlines pay passengers for delays like the E.U.?

By **SALLY FRENCH** of Nerd-Wallet

Southwest Airlines spent the early part of 2023 trying to make good after a historic meltdown resulted in more than 16,700 canceled flights during the 2022 holidays. The airline reimbursed passengers for the cost of alternative travel arrangements and sent many travelers additional loyalty points.

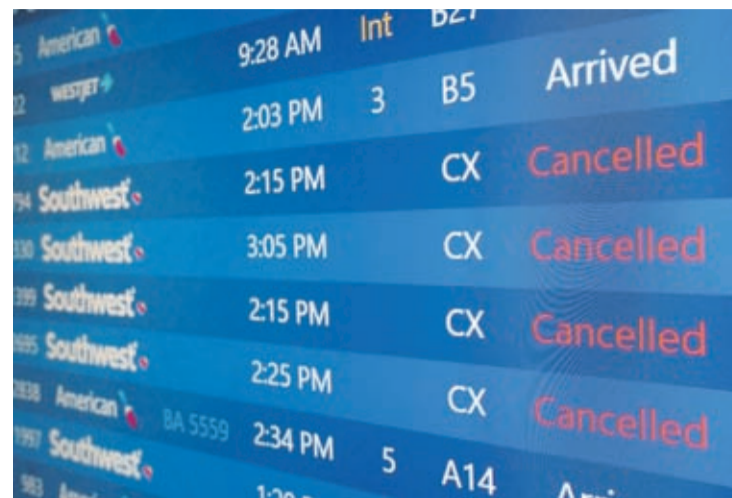
Southwest wasn't legally required to. The U.S. has no federal laws mandating that airlines compensate passengers for delays. Airlines are only obligated to offer refunds if they cancel a flight and the passenger decides not to travel.

That's hardly the case in Europe. An EU regulation, commonly referred to as EU261, requires airlines to compensate travelers for cancellations, denied boarding or delays of two or more hours. It went into effect in 2005 and applies to most flights operated by airlines based in the 27 EU countries, plus Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

As long as the flight wasn't disrupted due to an "extraordinary circumstance" such as weather, passengers are entitled to compensation from 250 euros (about \$260) to 600 euros (about \$630), depending on the length of flight and delay. Some passengers are also entitled to free meals and accommodations.

HAS EU261 ACTUALLY REDUCED DELAYS?

Given the financial pressure to pay out passengers, it might seem airlines are incentivized to stay on schedule, but some studies show that it might not help



The list of Southwest Airlines flights cancelled grows at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix, Dec. 29, 2022.

Associated Press

with being on time at all. Even when it does, there might only be marginal improvements. A 2018 study from the European University Institute concluded flights regulated by EU261 are 5% more likely to arrive on time, resulting in an average arrival delay reduction per flight of just 3.9 minutes.

NEW PROBLEMS INTRODUCED BY EU261

Experts say EU261 has spawned new challenges. For one thing, the definition of "extraordinary circumstances" for delays (upon which airlines don't have to pay out) remains unclear. After all, the point at which a storm morphs beyond manageable is debatable. The government also never established a consistent process to file claims, and many airlines make it difficult to do so.

For airlines, there are also the added administrative costs of processing claims, as well as potentially more idle aircraft and schedule padding to help prevent delays. Some experts worry that financial pressure might compel staff to rush

through or ignore potential issues, presenting unnecessary safety and technical risks.

WHO LOSES AND WINS UNDER POLICIES LIKE EU261? LOSERS: AIRLINES (ESPECIALLY SMALL, REGIONAL ONES)

Some experts suggest that regulations especially hurt small airlines that can't afford to have spare aircraft on standby or software to handle the compensation claims. The fixed payout amounts to passengers can have an outsized impact on shorter routes or budget fares.

"Compensating 250 euros on a flight that costs 50 euros is clearly absurd," said former Flybe CEO Christine Ourmières-Widener in a testimonial generated for a 2019 report published by the European Regions Airline Association. Flybe is a now-defunct British regional airline.

MOSTLY WINNERS: PASSENGERS

Delays can cost passengers via time, inconvenience and stress, and sometimes literal expenses like food and lodging. Government laws mandating compensation can alleviate that burden if passengers are willing to put in the time to file the paperwork.

Raj Mahal, founder of Plan-MoreTrips, an app that helps travelers find cheap fares, was flying home to Barcelona after spending the 2022 winter holidays in Portugal. □

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No atmosphere found at faraway Earth-sized world, study says

By **MARCIA DUNN**
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — The Webb Space Telescope has found no evidence of an atmosphere at one of the seven rocky, Earth-sized planets orbiting another star.

Scientists said Monday that doesn't bode well for the rest of the planets in this solar system, some of which are in the sweet spot for harboring water and potentially life.

"This is not necessarily a bust" for the other planets, Massachusetts Institute of Technology astrophysicist Sara Seager, who wasn't part of the study, said in an email. "But we will have to wait and see."

The Trappist solar system a rarity with seven planets about the size of our own has enticed astronomers ever since they spotted it just 40 light-years away. That's close by cosmic standards; a light-year is about 5.8 trillion miles. Three of the seven planets are in their star's habitable zone, making this star system even more alluring.

The NASA-led team reported little if any atmosphere exists at the innermost planet. Results were published Monday in the journal Nature.

The lack of an atmosphere would mean no water and no protection from cosmic rays, said lead researcher Thomas Greene of NASA's Ames Research Center.

As for the other planets orbiting the small, feeble Trappist star, "I would



This image provided by NASA/JPL-Caltech shows an artist's conception of what the surface of the exoplanet TRAPPIST-1f may look like, based on available data about its diameter, mass and distances from the host star.

Associated Press

have been more optimistic about the others" having atmospheres if this one had, Greene said in an email.

If rocky planets orbiting ultracool red dwarf stars like this one "do turn out to be a bust, we will have to wait for Earths around sun-like stars, which could be a long wait," said MIT's Seager. Because the Trappist system's innermost planet is bombarded by solar radiation four times as much as Earth gets from our sun it's possible that extra energy is why there's no atmosphere, Greene noted. His team found temperatures there hitting 450 degrees Fahrenheit (230 degrees Celsius) on the side of the planet constantly facing its star.

By using Webb the largest and most powerful tele-

scope ever sent into space the U.S. and French scientists were able to measure the change in brightness as the innermost planet moved behind its star and estimate how much infrared light was emitted from the planet.

The change in brightness was minuscule since the Trappist star is more than 1,000 times brighter than this planet, and so Webb's detection of it "is itself a major milestone," the European Space Agency said. More observations are planned not only of this planet, but the others in the Trappist system.

Looking at this particular planet in another wavelength could uncover an atmosphere much thinner than our own, although it seems unlikely it could survive, said Taylor Bell of

the Bay Area Environmental Research Institute, who was part of the study.

Further research could still uncover an atmosphere of sorts, even if it's not exactly like what's seen on Earth, said Michael Gillon of the University of Liege in Belgium who was part of the team that discovered the first three Trappist planets in 2016. He did not take part in the latest study. □



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Purdue's Zach Edey named AP men's player of the year

By **JOHN MARSHALL**
AP Basketball Writer

Zach Edey spent the days following Purdue's historic NCAA Tournament loss lying low, his phone turned off, along with the rest of the outside world.

The disappointing finish did little to diminish the season the Boilermakers big man had.

Dominating at both ends of the floor during the regular season, Edey was a near-unanimous choice as The Associated Press men's college basketball player of the year.

Edey received all but one vote from a 58-person media panel, with Indiana's Trayce Jackson-Davis getting the other.

"The season ended in disappointment, which really sucks, but it's always nice to win individual accolades," Edey said. "It kind of validates your work a little bit.

The last three years I've played here, I've seen my game grow every year. AP player of the year is a great feeling, it just kind of stinks the way the season ended."

That ending came in the NCAA Tournament's first round, when Purdue lost to Fairleigh Dickinson, joining Virginia in 2018 as the only No. 1 seeds to lose to a No. 16. Before that, Edey dominated.

The 7-foot-4 Canadian was named a unanimous AP

All-American and the Big Ten player of the year after finishing sixth nationally in scoring (22.3), second in re-

blocked shots in a season. "He's kind of a one of a kind," Purdue guard David Jenkins Jr. said. "I've never

adults was to push him toward basketball, where his size would be a massive advantage.

quickly. He played at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida, and proved himself against some of the nation's best high school players, drawing attention from college coaches. He ended up at Purdue, where coach Matt Painter had a proven track record of developing big men.

Edey had a limited role as a freshman, then averaged 14.4 points and 7.7 rebounds last season on a team that had talented big man Trevion Williams and future NBA lottery pick Jaden Ivey.

Already a tireless worker, Edey put in even more time during the offseason, spending extra time after practice and taking better care of his body. His already solid footwork got better, he added quickness and developed more patience with the constant double teams he faced not to mention the barrage of physical play teams tried to employ against him.

"There's not really any kind of cool, sexy answer," Edey said. "I came in every day, I worked hard, I stayed after practice stayed a long time after practice. I took care of my body and was able to steadily improve. There was nothing revolutionary I did. I just worked hard."

It certainly paid off, even if the season ended with a huge disappointment. □



Purdue center Zach Edey (15) reacts after being fouled by Fairleigh Dickinson in the second half of a first-round college basketball game in the men's NCAA Tournament in Columbus, Ohio, Friday, March 17, 2023.

Associated Press

bounding (12.8) and first in double-doubles (26).

Edey also shot 62% from the floor and averaged 2.1 blocked shots per game while leading Purdue to its first outright Big Ten regular-season title since 2017. He is the first player since Navy's David Robinson in 1985-86 to have at least 750 points, 450 rebounds and 50

played with someone like him, probably never will again."

And to think, Edey didn't want to play basketball when he was younger.

A hockey and baseball player growing up in Toronto, Edey resisted basketball at first. He was 6-2 by the sixth grade and the natural inclination by the

"It was something I kind avoided all my life.," Edey said. "I didn't like people telling me what I should be doing with my life and it felt like that's what people were doing with basketball. When I started playing competitively, that's when I really fell in love with the sport."

Edey developed his game



Brooklyn Nets center LaMarcus Aldridge (21) plays in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics, Sunday, March 6, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

LaMarcus Aldridge, 7-time NBA All-Star, announces retirement

NEW YORK (AP) — LaMarcus Aldridge announced Friday he is retiring again from the NBA.

Aldridge, 37, initially retired in 2021 after experiencing an irregular heartbeat in the last of five games he played for the Brooklyn Nets that season. He re-joined the Nets five months after announcing his retirement.

The seven-time All-Star was diagnosed with Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome an abnormality that can

cause a rapid heartbeat as a rookie in 2007.

Despite the diagnosis, Aldridge was among his era's premier big men. As the second pick out of Texas in the 2006 draft, he averaged 19.1 points and 8.1 rebounds in his career.

Aldridge played his first nine seasons with the Portland Trailblazers before five years with the San Antonio Spurs and his short time with the Nets.

"In the words of TB12, you only get one big, emotion-

al retirement... so, on that note...I'm thankful for all the memories, family and friends I made throughout my career. It was one hell of a ride and I enjoyed every min!" Aldridge wrote on Twitter.

A five-time All-NBA selection, Aldridge was praised by San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich when he first retired as a "consummate professional with a unique skill set and a deep respect for the game." □

Odds makers skeptical of scoring spike from MLB's new rules

By MARK ANDERSON

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Here's one baseball fans might not have bet on: At least one prominent oddsmaker thinks starting pitchers will go deeper into games this season.

Eric Biggio, baseball lead trader for Caesars Sportsbook, thinks Major League Baseball's new rules including a pitch clock and limits on infield shifts could hedge the trend of managers going early and often to their bullpens. That goes against conventional thinking that a clock meant to hurry pitchers would likely aid hitters.

Starters' innings have been drastically reduced in recent years in favor of a parade of hard-throwing relievers. The strategy has contributed to a decrease in scoring and lack of action in games, part of what prompted MLB to make the changes. There were some indications in spring training that pitchers may try weaponizing the clock, which gives players 30 seconds to resume play between at-bats, 15 seconds between pitches with nobody on and 20 seconds with runners on base. Batters must be alert to the pitcher with 8 seconds left.



Baltimore Orioles relief pitcher Logan Gillaspie, right, starts to deliver a pitch to Boston Red Sox's Connor Wong, as the pitch clock ticks to five seconds, during the eighth inning of an opening day baseball game at Fenway Park, Thursday, March 30, 2023, in Boston.

Associated Press

Some, including Mets ace Max Scherzer, tried turning the clock into a cat-and-mouse game during spring exhibitions. Biggio is wagering pitchers can find an upper hand there.

Starters are "going to dictate the tempo of the game and they're going to be able to frustrate the hitters," Biggio said. "So I think, especially in the early part of the year, you might see starters stall a little bit longer. The pitch count will be lower. They'll be putting more balls in play.

"On the flipside is relief-

ers that traditionally took a little more time, they might take a little to adjust."

Biggio anticipates the effect to be minimal but still enough that those expecting more scoring may need to adjust their thinking this season, which began Thursday.

Even with infield shift limits that could boost batting averages, Hal Egeland, senior sports trader for BetMGM, is also skeptical about a rise in scoring.

He noted teams are still allowed to employ an outfield shift, such as moving

a left fielder into center or even right field.

"There are people that believe that it's more important the outfield shifting than actually the infield shifting," Egeland said. "The outfield shifting data-wise shows a greater difference between the batting average on balls in play."

No longer having infield shifts could affect player proposition bets, both operators said, and both referred to Minnesota Twins slugger Joey Gallo as a test case. The left-handed hitter will likely hit leadoff against

right-handed starters, and he has always batted deeper in the order before signing with the Minnesota Twins in December.

Gallo is the poster child of the modern-day analytics player, one who ends the majority of his plate appearances with either a home run, strikeout or walk. He is a career .199 hitter but has a .325 on-base percentage and has topped out at 41 homers in a season. Gallo faced the outfield shift in spring training in which left field was vacated, but it's unclear how it will play out if defenses position themselves creatively against him for a full season.

Another area to watch is stolen bases, especially since baserunners will be able to better time pitchers, who are limited to two pickoff attempts per batter. Larger bases have also slightly shortened the distance between bags.

Baserunners were 21 of 23 on stolen base attempts across the 15 opening day games Thursday, compared to 5 for 9 in seven games on the first day of last season.

Analytics might still win out, to where the numbers of stolen bases don't increase as much as expected. □

Daniil Medvedev advances to Miami Open final

By MARC BERMAN

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)

— Daniil Medvedev hasn't won a title in the U.S. since capturing the 2021 U.S. Open, when he turned away Novak Djokovic's bid for a Grand Slam.

Now the Miami Open's No. 4 seed is one victory from a fresh American title, beating fellow Russian Karen Khachanov 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-3 in the semifinals Friday, the same day Wimbledon announced Russians will be allowed back with conditions.

The other men's semifinal is Friday night between

Carlos Alcaraz and Jan-nick Sinner. If Alcaraz wins, it'll set up a rematch of the Indian Wells final; Alcaraz beat Medvedev 6-3, 6-2 on March 19.

Medvedev has won 23 of his last 24 matches the lone loss to now-world No. 1 Alcaraz and is in his fifth straight final.

Medvedev has been friends with the 14th-seeded Khachanov since childhood, and they're each fierce baseliners, with one rally lasting 31 shots.

Medvedev needed a tie-breaker to win the first set, serving it out with the first of 13 aces in the match. Prov-

ing a little more consistent in the second set, Khachanov forced a third by breaking Medvedev's serve early to go up 2-0.

But Medvedev owned the third, surviving an early breakpoint when Khachanov hit a loose backhand into the doubles alley for a rare unforced error.

Medvedev broke Khachanov in the next game to go up 3-1 and a won a wondrous 26-shot rally on match point. Khachanov picked up a drop shot, then retrieved a shot from the baseline between the legs before his friend put away the winner.



Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, returns a volley against Karen Khachanov, of Russia, in the first set of a match at the Miami Open tennis tournament, Friday, March 31, 2023, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

Also Friday, No. 15-seed Petra Kvitova and unseeded Romanian Sorana Cirstea were playing to decide who'll take on Elena Rybakina in Saturday's women's singles final.

Rybakina, who has won 13 straight matches, including the Indian Wells title, beat Jessica Pegula in straight sets in a rain-delayed match that ended close to midnight. □

Weekly SPECIALS



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